



LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT

2017 ANNUAL STATISTICS

By: Detective Jeff B. Shew, Locust Police Department

SUMMARY OF 2017 STATISTICS

OFFENSE TYPES/INCIDENT REPORTS

Law enforcement activities and statistics in the City of Locust for 2017 show another fantastic year for the city in terms of low criminal activity. They also continued to show that city residents and visitors enjoy a safe environment and peaceful atmosphere for a city that is beginning to explode with growth. Statistics documented by the Locust Police Department for the 2017 calendar year showed more than a 7% decrease in documented offense types and a 5 ½% decrease in recorded incident reports, another decrease in overall larceny and fraud activity, and continued to show an annual trend of an extremely small average daily occurrence of reported larceny, fraud, or assault activity.

For the year, the Locust Police Department continued with its policies of reports being documented for dispatched calls where interaction with the public occurred. This still resulted in the aforementioned 5.5% decrease in documented incident reports compared to 2016, and reported offenses documented in those reports decreased by 7.4% from the previous year. Reported offenses would be the alleged criminal activity or other circumstances involved in each recorded incident report and can contain up to three per report.

General service call types were down 12.6% from the previous year, and these non-criminal call types continue to represent the largest percentage of dispatched calls received which include escort requests, medical and fire calls, and general calls for service.

General investigation call types were up a minor 3% from the previous year. Calls considered as general investigation are also often non-criminal in nature but do require investigation by the department to determine the actual circumstances. Of note in this category, disturbance call types were up 15% which could possibly be attributed to a growing population. Six missing person reports for the year were not determined to involve foul play and those "missing" were located or determined to not actually be missing.

General law enforcement/criminal activity offense types that were reported decreased by 11.6% for 2017. Decreases were seen in traffic offenses that required an incident report, property damage reports, harassment type calls, juvenile related reports, and the “other illegal activity” categories. Increases were seen in the warrant service category, trespassing, vandalism, and weapons violations categories.

Again in 2017, positive statistics were seen in the category involving call types related to property and financial crime. Overall, there was a 2.3% decrease in call types related to theft or fraud. Breaking this down further, there was a 4.7% drop in business related larcenies, a 5.6% decrease in fraud type reports, and larcenies related to vehicles and residences only increased by 2 for each category from 2016. It should also be noted that 7 of the 26 larcenies related to residences were American flags stolen from front yards of residences around the 4th of July holiday. Although the sanctity of the flag makes these egregious offenses, the monetary loss would be considered minimal and would include zero instances of breaking and entering offenses. Overall, personal larceny affecting persons, vehicles, or residences continued to be extremely low showing a daily average occurrence of just 0.11.

Alcohol and drug related offense types decreased by 14.3% for the year from 126 in 2016 to 108 in 2017. The only increase within this section is an increase in reported DWI offense types for the second straight year going from 42 last year to 52 this year. Reported DWI offense types would represent incidents where arrests were made for driving while impaired or DWI related offenses.

Another minor reduction was seen in the physical crime category as only 18 assault type offenses were reported for the year, a decrease of 5.3%. This statistic represents a daily average reported occurrence of assaults in Locust of just .05 times which makes for a virtually non-existent frequency of occurrence.

Other offense types reported for 2017 were 2 sex offenses and 2 death investigations. The sex offenses reported were either confirmed to be unfounded or an arrest was made. The death investigations did not involve foul play with one appearing to clearly be a result of health issues while the other was inconclusive on contributing factors but was still a natural death or at least did not involve foul play. Autopsy and toxicology reports have yet to be received in that investigation.

Because it will be explained in some categories that the absence of one of our full-time patrol officers for the majority of the year contributed to certain statistics being lower, it is only fair to acknowledge that some of the overall activity related to offense types and incident reports may also be lower for the year partially due to the same reason. This is much less of a factor in the above referenced categories however as the majority of offense types responded to are dispatched and not self-initiated by officers.

As a preface, the explanation of how the absence of full-time officers can contribute to lower numbers is simply the obvious observation that less officers are then working to self-initiate activities, perform patrols, initiate traffic stops etc. Also, when officers are unable to work, supervisors then work in their place performing the duties of both a supervisor and as a patrol officer. Because of their duties as supervisors, some functions that full-time patrol officers are responsible for are not performed at the same level or frequency by supervisors (business and neighborhood patrols, traffic stops etc.). In addition to one full-time officer being sidelined much of the calendar year due to injury, multiple other officers missed time throughout the year due to surgery, illness, or other factors.

BUSINESS/NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS

For 2017, the aforementioned absence of a full-time patrol officer for much of the year did affect business and neighborhood patrols logged by the department. An increase in arrest charges for the year also affected the availability of officers to patrol. There was a decrease in completed patrols from 18,417 in 2016 to 15,594 this year. Although this is a significant decrease in overall patrols completed, the daily average of completed patrols only fell by 8 from 50.5 last year to 42.7 in 2017.

ARREST CHARGES

Arrest charges made by the Locust Police Department in 2017 were up significantly from the number of charges in 2016. For the year, the Locust Police Department made 311 arrest charges, an increase of 18.3% for the year. The three usual charge types again topped the stat list with driving while impaired, failure to appear arrest warrants, and misdemeanor larceny charges leading the way. Despite the increase, the frequency and type of charges remained consistent with previous years so no concerning increases in specific charges were noted.

CITATION CHARGES

Citation charges for 2017 saw a decrease in issued citation charges by 12.5% from the previous year with 1,270 citation charges issued in 2017 as opposed to 1,439 in 2016. Exact reasons for the decrease cannot be pinpointed but multiple possible factors can be listed. The biggest decrease was seen in the speeding category which saw a 40.8% decrease in speeding related citation charges issued. One contributing factor would be the previously mentioned absence of a speed RADAR operator certified officer who missed the majority of the calendar year. Other possible factors may include that an adjustment by drivers has been made after the speed limit change from 35 to 45 along East and West Main Street which occurred in 2015. Drivers may now more frequently be operating at a traveling speed that is acceptable to the discretion of Locust officers with a posted speed limit 10 miles higher. Another possible factor could be discretionary warnings by Locust officers issued at a higher rate. Those numbers were not tracked in 2017 as they require manual daily tracking and are not compiled electronically. A concerted effort will be made in 2018 to again compile warning statistics.

TRAFFIC CRASHES

Traffic crashes reported in the city for 2017 were 212, down 8 from the previous year for a difference of 3.7%. This total number would include all reported crashes which would also represent parking lot fender benders. The breakdown between street/highway crashes and parking lot accidents was 164 to 48 and the average monthly approximated property damage number reported for Locust crashes was just above \$49,500.00. This overall decrease may or may not be related to a speed and recognition adjustment by frequent Locust travelers to the 45 mph speed limit that was changed two years ago. As an agency, we would also like to believe that concerted efforts in speed and traffic law enforcement always factor in any reduction in crash incidents. Locust did suffer its first traffic-crash fatality since 2013 when a Locust resident's vehicle was struck by a tractor-trailer at the intersection of West Main Street and Meadowcreek Church Road in November. Although a failure to yield by the deceased driver caused the crash, this incident still highlighted a need at that intersection for increased traffic controls. As stated with warnings issued in the citation category, compiling exact crash locations is much more easily tracked manually as opposed to through statistical reports. In 2018, a more concerted effort will be made to better track crash locations to identify "hot spots". Without this tracking however, it is accurate to report that problem intersections exist at West Main Street and Meadowcreek Church Road, West Main Street and Brown's Hill Road, and North Central Avenue at the Meadowcreek Church Road/Bethel Church Road intersection. The intersections of Main Street and Central Avenue, West Main Street and Renee Ford Road, and West Main Street and Red Bridge Boulevard will also be locations where annually more crashes occur.

OVERALL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Overall, numbers related to dispatched calls and case numbers generated in 2017 compared to 2016 is where the growth of the city is still evident despite the absence for much of the year of a full-time patrol officer. Overall law enforcement activity are statistics compiled by Stanly Communications and represent all calls for the year as well as case numbers generated by the Locust Police Department. These numbers would also include all self-initiated activities by Locust officers which would suggest a likely increase for the year had all officers been available for duty for the entire year.

In total, 5,121 calls were either dispatched to or initiated by the Locust Police Department in 2017, down from 5,585 the previous year. Additionally, case or incident numbers generated by the department in 2017 were 2,730 as opposed to 2,869 in 2016. As the city continues to grow in population and economic development, and all officers are consistently available for duty, these numbers will continue to increase which would warrant consideration of additional staffing for the Locust Police Department in the very near future.

*****AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN – DUE TO HOW REPORTING SOFTWARE RECORDS OFFENSE TYPES/INCIDENTS, OFFENSE TYPES LISTED INCLUDE BOTH ATTEMPTS AND COMPLETED OFFENSES AS WELL AS ALLEGED OFFENSES THAT WERE PROVEN TO BE UNFOUNDED. OFFENSE TYPES ARE COUNTED TOGETHER REGARDLESS OF THESE DISTINCTIONS*****

(Continue For 2017 Annual Statistical Reports Break-Down)

Offenses/Incident Reports Statistics Key

Call/Offense Types

Escorts Provided – General, Business Closing, Child Custody Exchange, Funeral, Etc.
Assist EMS/Fire – Medical Or Fire Calls With Law Enforcement Assistance/Involvement
Calls For Service – Various Community Service Or Non-Criminal Dispatches, Animal Complaints, Etc.
Mutual Aid – Help Requested And Given To Other Agencies
Assist Motorist – Stranded Motorists, Keys Locked In Vehicle, Flat Tires, Etc.

Alarm Calls – Business, Residential Alarm Activation Responses
Disturbances – General, Various, Or Domestic Disturbance Responses
Suspicious Activity – Dispatched Reports Of Suspicious Activities, Vehicles, Or Persons
Investigations – General, 911 Hang-Ups, Suicide Threats, Open Doors, Etc.
Property Calls – Reports Of Lost Or Found Property
Missing Persons – Reports Of Missing Or Found Individuals

Business Larceny – Larcenies Reported From Locust Businesses
Fraud – Counterfeiting, Forgery, Obtaining Property By False Pretense, Identity Theft, Etc.
Residential Larceny/Minor Larceny From Person – Breaking & Entering, Larcenies From Residences
Vehicle Larceny – Breaking & Entering, Larceny From/Of Vehicles

Traffic Offenses – Traffic Offenses That Result In Other Charges, Arrests, Vehicle Towed, Etc.
Property Damage – Malicious Damage To Businesses, Residences, Vehicles, Minor Vehicle Crashes
Warrants – Arrest Warrants, Court Processes Served
Harassment – Harassing Phone Calls, Communicating Threats, Etc.
Trespassing – Unlawful Entry, 1st Or 2nd Degree, Etc.
Other Illegal Activity – Resist, Obstruct, Or Delay, Vehicle Pursuits, Lesser Charges, Etc.
Ordinance Violations – Violations Of City Ordinances Investigated Or Committed
Vandalism – Defacement Of Property, Minor Arson, Etc.
Juvenile Violations – Illegal Activity Committed By Or Against Juveniles
Weapons Violations – Unlawfully Carrying Concealed Weapon, Possession By Felon, Etc.

Drug Offenses – Possession, Distribution, Intent To Sell, Etc. Involving Illegal Drugs
Alcohol Charges – Charges Involving Alcohol Other Than DWI
DWI – Driving While Impaired Reports

Assaults – Calls Related To Assaults, Affray, Etc.

Sex Offense – Reports Of Or Offenses Involving Unlawful Sexual Activity
Personal Larceny – Serious Larceny Or Robbery Including Strong Arm, With Dangerous Weapon, Etc.
Murder – Homicide

Death Investigation – Non-Criminal Investigations Of Unattended Deaths, Suicide, Etc.

(REPORTS/STATISTICS BEGIN NEXT PAGE)

Offenses/Incident Reports

CATEGORY: GENERAL SERVICE

Call Type	2017 Total #	Monthly Avg.	2016 Total #	% Change
Escorts Provided	316	26.3	329	-4.0%
Assist EMS/Fire	188	15.7	205	-8.3%
Mutual Aid	40	3.3	64	-37.5%
Calls For Service	37	3.1	66	-43.9%
Assist Motorist	25	2.1	29	-13.8%
2017 TOTAL/ MONTHLY AVERAGE/ 2016 TOTAL/ % CHANGE	606	50.5	693	-12.6%

CATEGORY: GENERAL INVESTIGATION

Call Type	2017 Total #	Monthly Avg.	2016 Total #	% Change
Alarm Calls	159	13.3	159	---
Disturbances	123	10.3	107	+15.0%
Investigations	95	7.9	100	-5.0%
Suspicious Act.	83	6.9	87	-4.6%
Property Calls	15	1.3	12	+25.0%
Missing Persons*	6	0.5	2	+200.0%
2017 TOTAL/ MONTHLY AVERAGE/ 2016 TOTAL/ % CHANGE	481	40.1	467	+3.0%

*NO missing person's reports for 2017 included suspected foul play or went unsolved.

CATEGORY: GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Call Type	2017 Total #	Monthly Avg.	2016 Total #	% Change
Warrants	64	5.3	50	+28.0%
Traffic Offenses	52	4.3	62	-16.1%
Property Damage	34	2.8	51	-33.3%
Other Illegal Act.	21	1.8	29	-27.6%
Trespassing	14	1.2	6	+133.3%
Harassment	10	0.8	24	-58.3%
Weapons Viol.	10	0.8	7	+42.9%
Ordinance Viol.	5	0.4	5	---
Juvenile Viol.	2	0.2	7	-71.4%
Vandalism	2	0.2	1	+100.0%
2017 TOTAL/ MONTHLY AVERAGE/ 2016 TOTAL/ % CHANGE	214	20.2	242	-11.6%

CATEGORY: PROPERTY/FINANCIAL CRIME

Call Type	2017 Total #	Monthly Avg.	2016 Total #	% Change
Bus. Larceny	122	10.2	128	-4.7%
Fraud	51	4.3	54	-5.6%
Resd. Larceny	26	2.2	24	+8.3%
Vehicle Larceny	13	1.1	11	+18.2%
2017 TOTAL/ MONTHLY AVERAGE/ 2016 TOTAL/ % CHANGE	212	17.7	217	-2.3%
TOTAL LARCENY OCCURRENCE (BUSINESS, VEHICLE, RESIDENTIAL, PERSONAL)	161	0.44 Avg. Daily Occurrence	163	-1.2%
PERSONAL LARCENY OCCURRENCE (VEHICLE, RESIDENTIAL, PERSONAL)	39	0.11 Avg. Daily Occurrence	35	+10.8%

CATEGORY: ALCOHOL/DRUGS

Call Type	2017 Total #	Monthly Avg.	2016 Total #	% Change
DWI	52	4.3	42	+23.8%
Drug Offenses	48	4.0	71	-32.4%
Alcohol Charges	8	0.7	13	-38.5%
2017 TOTAL/ MONTHLY AVERAGE/ 2016 TOTAL/ % CHANGE	108	9.0	126	-14.3%

CATEGORY: PHYSICAL CRIME

Call Type	2017 Total #	Monthly Avg.	2016 Total #	% Change
Assaults	18	1.5	19	-5.3%
2017 DAILY AVERAGE	.05	----	.05	----

CATEGORY: SERIOUS/VIOLENT CRIME

Call Type	2017 Total #	Monthly Avg.	2016 Total #
Sex Offense	2*	--	5*
Personal Larceny/Robbery	0	--	0
Murder	0	--	0

*Sex Offense # includes REPORTS OF sex offenses committed even if investigation revealed no misconduct OR offense occurred in a different jurisdiction.

CATEGORY: OTHER INVESTIGATION

Call Type	2017 Total #	2016 Total #
Death Investigation	2	1

2017 TOTAL OFFENSE TYPES AND INCIDENT REPORTS

2017 TOTAL OFFENSE TYPES/ MONTHLY/ DAILY AVG.	1643	136.9	4.5	<u>2016 #</u> 1770	<u>% Change</u> -7.4%
2017 TOTAL INCIDENT REPORTS COMPLETED/ MONTHLY/ DAILY AVG.	1496	124.7	4.1	<u>2016 #</u> 1580	<u>% Change</u> -5.5%

Area Patrols/Checks

Patrol Type	Total #	Monthly Avg.	Daily Avg.
Neighborhoods	8,286	690.5	22.7
Businesses	7,219	601.6	19.8
Requested House	43	3.6	---
Suspicious Vehicles	29	2.4	---
Special Investigation	13	1.1	---
Suspicious Persons	4	0.3	---
2017 TOTAL PATROLS/ DAILY PATROL AVG.	15,594	<u>2017 DAILY AVG.</u> 42.7	<u>2016 DAILY AVG.</u> 50.5

Arrests/Offense Charges/Counts

Charge	2017 Total #
Driving While Impaired	88
Failure To Appear	60
Misdemeanor Larceny	46
Court Order/Probation Violation	12
Obtaining Property By False Pretense	9
Minor Charges	7
Felony Larceny	6
Possession Schedule II	6
Resist, Obstruct, Delay	6
Assault On A Female	5
Concealed Weapon Violation	5
Possession Schedule IV	5
Possession Schedule VI	5
Assault With Deadly Weapon	4
Flee To Elude	4
Forgery	4
Larceny By Anti-Theft Device	4
Possession Methamphetamine	4
Drug Trafficking	3
Possession Drug Paraphernalia	3
Possession Intent To Sell & Deliver Schedule II	3
Assault & Battery	2
Breaking & Entering	2
Firearm By Felon	2
Obtain Controlled Substance By Fraud	2
Possession Intent To Sell & Deliver Schedule VI	2
Possession Stolen Goods	2
Trespassing	2
Unauthorized Use Of Motor Vehicle	2
Assault By Pointing A Gun	1
Communicating Threats	1
Driving While License Revoked	1
DWI Under 21	1
Possession Heroin	1
Possession Schedule I	1
2017 TOTAL ARREST CHARGES/ MONTHLY/DAILY AVG.	311 25.9/0.85
2016 TOTAL ARREST CHARGES/ MONTHLY/DAILY AVG.	263 21.9/0.72
% CHANGE	+18.3%

Citation Charges

CATEGORY: SPEEDING

Citation Charge	Total #
Speeding	411
Speeding In School Zone	16
2017 TOTAL CATEGORY CHARGES	427
MONTHLY / DAILY AVERAGE	35.6 / 1.2
2016 TOTAL / % CHANGE	646 / -40.8%

CATEGORY: VEHICLE VIOLATIONS

Citation Charge	Total #
Expired Registration	169
Operate/Allow Vehicle With No Insurance	42
Cancelled/Revoked Registration	25
Fictitious/Altered Registration	22
Expired/No Inspection	20
Vehicle Equipment Violations	14
Drive Motor Vehicle/Not Properly Registered	12
2017 TOTAL CATEGORY CHARGES	304
MONTHLY / DAILY AVERAGE	25.3 / 0.8
2016 TOTAL / % CHANGE	290 / +4.7%

CATEGORY: LICENSE VIOLATIONS

Citation Charge	Total #
Driving While License Revoked	141
No Operator's License	109
Other License Violations	11
2017 TOTAL CATEGORY CHARGES	261
MONTHLY / DAILY AVERAGE	21.8 / 0.7
2016 TOTAL / % CHANGE	208 / +22.6%

CATEGORY: SAFETY/UNSAFE VIOLATIONS

Citation Charge	Total #
Unsafe Movement/Passing	23
Lane Violations	22
Seatbelt Violations	20
Fail To Yield	14
Fail to Stop/Stop Sign Or Red Light	13
Careless & Reckless Driving	12
Child Restraint Violations	11
Fail To Reduce Speed	11
Following Too Close	2
2017 TOTAL CATEGORY CHARGES	128
MONTHLY / DAILY AVERAGE	10.7 / 0.4
2016 TOTAL / % CHANGE	150 / -15.8%

CATEGORY: ALCOHOL/DRUG OFFENSES

Citation Charge	Total #
Driving While Impaired	44
Possess Open Container Of Alcohol In Vehicle	15
Possession Schedule VI	13
Possession Drug Paraphernalia	7
Possess Alcohol Under 21	6
Possession Schedule II	2
Possession Schedule IV	2
2017 TOTAL CATEGORY CHARGES	89
MONTHLY / DAILY AVERAGE	7.4 / 0.2
2016 TOTAL / % CHANGE	91 / -2.2%

CATEGORY: CRIMINAL/OTHER OFFENSES

Citation Charge	Total #
Misdemeanor Larceny	29
Other Charges	13
Hit & Run/Fail To Stop For Accident	5
Second Degree Trespass	5
Flee To Elude	2
Parking Violations	2
Resist, Delay, Obstruct	2
Shoplifting	2
Possess Stolen Goods	1
2017 TOTAL CATEGORY CHARGES	61
MONTHLY / DAILY AVERAGE	5.1 / 0.2
2016 TOTAL / % CHANGE	54 / +12.2%

2017 TOTAL CITATION CHARGES	1,270
MONTHLY / DAILY AVERAGE	105.8 / 3.5
2016 TOTAL # / % CHANGE	1,439 / -12.5%

Traffic Crashes

2017 TOTAL REPORTED TRAFFIC CRASHES (STREET/HIGHWAY, PVA) / MONTHLY AVG. / DAILY AVG.	212 / 17.7 / 0.6
2016 TOTAL REPORTED TRAFFIC CRASHES / % CHANGE	220 / -3.7%

TOTAL DISPATCHED CALLS / GENERATED CASE NUMBERS
TWO YEAR COMPARISON

2017 TOTAL DISPATCHED CALLS / 2016 # / % CHANGE	5,121	5,585 / -8.7%
2017 TOTAL REPORT #S GENERATED / 2016 # / % CHANGE	2,730	2,869 / -5.0%